

MNRE INTERNAL CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

(May 19, 2025)



On May 19, 2025, the Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) conducted an internal review of three crucial national land management policies: the revised Reclamation Policy 2025, the nationally upscaled Sustainable Mining and Resource Management Policy 2025, and the newly developed Sustainable Land Management and Land Use Planning Policy 2025. Each policy aims to balance development needs with environmental protection, with the Reclamation Policy focusing on procedural frameworks for managing reclamation applications, the Sustainable Mining Policy expanding the scope of resource management from coastal to inland areas, and the SLM and LUP Policy promoting an integrated approach to land management. This initial internal consultation involved open discussions that highlighted the strengths and potential gaps of the draft policies, with valuable insights from MNRE's CEO guiding the dialogue. The feedback gathered will inform revisions before broader stakeholder consultations involving various sectors, including government agencies, local communities, and resource users, are held in the coming weeks. This review is a critical step in ensuring the policies align with Samoa's environmental and development goals and will be submitted to Cabinet for approval later this year, reflecting MNRE's commitment to sustainable land governance and resource management for the benefit of future generations.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOR SAMOA'S NDC PROJECT

(May 19th, 2025)



(MNRE), with support from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and technical experts from Castalia, successfully held a Community Consultation to develop Samoa's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) project documents. This consultation was crucial for involving local communities in shaping Samoa's climate response, ensuring that national climate goals translate into meaningful projects that reflect local priorities. Community representatives shared their experiences and concerns regarding climate change, focusing on key sectors such as Agriculture, Energy, and Water. Building on the Inception Workshop from December 2024, this second round of consultations aimed to identify gaps and enhance project readiness for international climate finance. By integrating local perspectives, Samoa is committed to community-led solutions that are technically sound, inclusive, and sustainable. The Ministry expresses gratitude to GGGI and Castalia for their vital collaboration in this initiative, moving towards a resilient, low-emission future for all.

Resigned Staff



Name: Lisamarie Brown
Designation: Administration Officer
Division: Corporate Services



Name: Florida Lena Kruse
Designation: Office Assistant
Division: Legal Division



Name: Mothersday Tauiao
Designation: Procurement Clerk
Division: Forestry Division



Name: Francine Elisaia
Designation: Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation Officer
Division: Division of Environment and Conservation

Overseas:

Training/Workshop/Meeting



Ms Fialelei for Sub Regional Climate Resilience and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Roadshow

Designation: Senior Ranger Officer

As a key officer responsible for the management, planning, and monitoring of Reserves and Protected Areas, my role directly aligns with the objectives of the Climate Resilience and Indigenous Knowledge Roadshow. Mr Fialelei Enoka responsibilities in ecological conservation, community outreach, and policy advisory are deeply connected to the themes of traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous-led climate solutions. Participating in this roadshow will enable Mr Enoka to share our national experiences, gain regional insights, and apply First Nations and Pacific knowledge to strengthen our protected area management and biodiversity strategies. Mr Enoka involvement will also support the development of culturally informed and community-driven conservation policies, in line with both his role and the roadshow's aim to embed Indigenous perspectives in climate resilience efforts.

MNRE HOSTS SUCCESSFUL 2025 CLIMATE ACTION DAY IN LOTOFAGA

(May 21, 2025)



(MNRE) successfully hosted the 2025 Climate Action Day in Lotofaga, themed "Rooted in Brilliance, Thrive with Resilience." This event marked a significant milestone in the Ministry's SAMOA CARES campaign, celebrating community-led action against climate change. The day began with a Pre-Learning Session featuring hands-on activities that engaged the community in practical demonstrations of the Ministry's work, emphasizing the importance of education in building climate resilience across generations. After a prayer service, MNRE's Acting CEO, Moafanua Tolusina Pouli, and the Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salea Schuster, highlighted the importance of government-community collaboration. A key moment was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MNRE and the Lotofaga District, aimed at enhancing sustainable resource management. The event concluded with a prize-giving ceremony recognizing the environmental stewardship of participating villages. The Ministry expressed gratitude to the Lotofaga District and development partners, GEF and UNDP, for their support in advancing Samoa's climate resilience goals.

HOME COMPOSTING PROGRAM LAUNCH

(May 23, 2025)



On May 23, 2025, the communities of Vailuutai and Maagiagi were selected as pilot sites for the Home Composting Program, part of the Recycle Organics Program by Environment and Climate Change Canada and implemented by MNRE in Samoa. This initiative aims to enhance organic waste management, providing environmental, economic, and social benefits while helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Waste Sector. The program began with the distribution of over 100 compost and segregation bins at Vailuutai EFKS, receiving a positive response from the community. The initiative promotes composting to decrease landfill waste and support local agriculture, with youth leaders actively engaging in outreach efforts.

Overseas:

Training/Workshop/Meeting



*Ms Vatapuia for
6th Global Conference on
Biodiversity Finance*

**Designation: Senior Officer -
Terrestrial**

Samoa, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment's (MNRE) Division of Environment and Conservation's (DEC) Terrestrial Biodiversity Conservation Section (TBCS), is currently developing a Biodiversity Finance (BioFin) Project in partnership with UNDP. The nominee will be one of the key staff involved with the development and establishment of the project as well as the implementation of project activities and this conference will assist by providing insight into similar projects conducted around the world. This conference will be a great opportunity for the Samoa in anticipation for the new BioFin project.



*Ms Elisapeta GEF
Constituency Meeting &
Project Oversight Training*

**Designation: Principal Climate
Resilience Officer**

The MNRE is the Operational Focal Point (OFP) for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Samoa and this meeting kickstarts discussion on the focus areas for the GEF-9th replenishment cycle ahead of the GEF Council biannual meeting scheduled for June 2025.

The Constituency meeting (13-14) is a critical platform for Samoa to engage with GEF partners and regional counterparts. It allows us to present our national priorities, track project progress, influence funding strategies, and ensure Samoa's voice is heard in shaping future GEF programming. As the OFP, MNRE has a mandate to represent Samoa in these discussions and ensure that opportunities for GEF funding are aligned with national development and environmental priorities.

Equally important is the Project Oversight Training (May 15-16), which is a mandatory pre-requisite for accessing OFP funding support. This training is designed to strengthen our capacity in project governance, monitoring, and fiduciary oversight- skills that are essential to MNRE's role in coordinating and supervising GEF- funded initiatives. MNRE's participation will enable MNRE to meet this requirement and maintain eligibility for future GEF support.

BUILDING A RESILIENT SAMOA WITH TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND NEW PARTNERSHIPS

(May 26, 2025)



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment announced a new partnership with the Government of Australia, which has committed AUD\$2 million to enhance climate resilience in Samoan communities. This milestone was marked by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony involving Hon. Minister Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Australian High Commissioner Will Robinson, and UNDP Resident Representative Aiona Niculita, launching the "Samoa CARES: Building Resilient Communities Together" program. The support will be facilitated through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, empowering communities to lead local climate adaptation projects. The Ministry also hosted a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Exchange, welcoming experts from Australia, New Zealand, and Tonga to explore how traditional knowledge can inform environmental protection. Minister Toeolesulusulu emphasized the importance of preserving traditional knowledge for future generations, reminding attendees of the enduring power of stories. This event highlights the vital role of traditions and partnerships in shaping a resilient future for Samoa.

SAMOA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR WATER, WETLANDS, FORESTS, AND BIODIVERSITY

(May 22-23, 2025)



On May 22-23, 2025, the Government of Samoa, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), celebrated the International Day for Water, Wetlands, Forests, and Biodiversity. This year's theme, "Protecting Samoa's Water, Wetlands, Forests, and Biodiversity Resources for Our Resilient Common Future," emphasizes the importance of these ecosystems for livelihoods and resilience against climate change. The event featured a student forum, with over 200 attendees, where the Minister of Natural Resources delivered a keynote address. Highlights included the launch of the National Drought Policy and the signing of Memorandums of Understanding with community farmers for sustainable land practices. Day two focused on the Three Million Tree Planting Campaign, with workshops for farmers and educational tours for students to local conservation projects. The MNRE expressed gratitude to development partners and sponsors for their ongoing support in managing Samoa's natural resources.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER